

Attacks on or near schools have forced Iraqi teachers and other school staff to try to protect their students.

"Children are very perceptive of teachers' moods and actions," said Hadoon Waleed, a psychology professor at Baghdad University. "It's very important that teachers are trained to handle their students during stressful situations."

Fawad Al-Kaisi, 59, headmaster at the Al-Hurriyah primary school in south Baghdad, said his staff has learned through experience.

"When explosions go off in the area, the students become very nervous," Al-Kaisi said. "We try our best to create a positive environment to make them feel safe."

Like others among Iraq's professional elite, psychiatrists are scarce, in part because they have been targets of kidnappers and assassins.

Al-Malaki, the psychiatrist at Ibn Rushd, survived two bullet wounds in his right arm from an assassination attempt in his clinic last year. He is among the few psychiatrists who have remained in Iraq and continued to work.

The Iraqi Society of Psychiatrists estimates at least 140 of the country's 200 psychiatrists were killed or have fled the country in the past four years.

LITTLE HELP AVAILABLE

A shortage of psychiatric facilities further limits the availability of mental health care. Ibn Rushd is the only government-funded psychiatric hospital in Baghdad, a city of 6 million people.

For Hussain Haider, now 7, and other children, the need is urgent. He stopped speaking for months after his father was killed in a crossfire between fighters of the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia group, and U.S. forces April 6, 2004.

Hussain's mother, Thuraya Jabbar, said his grades have fallen, and he is awakened frequently by nightmares.

"He starts crying whenever we start speaking about his father," she said.

DENOUNCING THE REPREHENSIBLE COMMENTS OF DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to offer my condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible and senseless violence at Virginia Tech. As they struggle to cope with their tremendous loss, we must give proper respect to their lives and the lives of the thousands of innocent people that are cut short every year in this country by gun violence. And let us honor their memories by committing ourselves to bringing an end to gun violence.

Before I begin, I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, because today is the 200th time she has come to this floor to speak out against this unnecessary war in Iraq. I commend your tenacity, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, and I thank you for your leadership and your commitment to ending the occupation of Iraq and to bringing our troops home. I am proud to serve with you in this body as your colleague and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, and I want to say to you that your voice has become the voice of America. Thank you, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Let me also thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, and members of the CBC for their leadership in addressing and denouncing the latest reprehensible comments by Don Imus.

First, I want to congratulate the Rutgers women's basketball team. We are so proud of you. Your record of achievement as women, as students, as athletes speaks for itself and no one can take away your accomplishments.

As we all know, on April 4, the morning talk show host Don Imus, who has, for years, mind you, for years, made disparaging remarks towards people of color and others, referred to the very distinguished women of the Rutgers basketball team with such disgusting words that I don't even want to repeat them.

Not only did his comments belittle the ethnicity of these women of valor, but he apparently felt entitled to denigrate these women as women. We are here today to say that there is no place for that kind of sexism and racism in our public discourse.

□ 2000

So while we acknowledge MSNBC and CBS did the right thing by firing Imus, we need to ask the question, what took so long? CBS's initial response, which was to suspend Imus 2 weeks with pay, suggested that they thought that a token punishment would appease the public outcry and demonstrated a complete disregard and insensitivity to both the women of the Rutgers basketball team and the millions of Americans who were outraged by the comments.

The fact is, this incident is just one of many Imus should have been fired for a long time ago. For example, he should have been fired 14 years ago when he referred to Gwen Ifill, who was then the White House correspondent for the New York Times, and he said, "Isn't the Times wonderful? It lets the cleaning lady cover the White House." The point is this was not an isolated incident.

If you look back at what he said with regard to New York Times sports reporter Bill Rhoden, he said he was a "quota hire." When you look at what he said about the tennis player, Amelie Mauresmo, he called her "a big old . . ." And I don't even want to say what he said there, but go back and check the record. He even admitted that he picked one of his producers to do the "N jokes."

You know, this is unbelievable. The point is, and I want to make this clear, this is not an isolated incident. And while I, for one, am glad that his show has been cancelled, I believe that we should be concerned with the fact that it took him so long to be taken off the air.

It is also important to understand that this is just not about Imus. There is a tendency in this country to treat racism as an issue of personal ill will so that people can say to themselves "I

don't hate black people" and ignore all of the ways that the status quo in our society today reinforces racial inequality as well as sexism. Institutional racism and sexism don't need any personal ill will in order to continue. They rely on indifference, and people like Imus promote that indifference.

The grim reality is that women still earn 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The fact is that in the United States a woman is raped every 6 minutes, and women of color are especially vulnerable to sexual violence. The fact is that, in spite of all the progress we have made in America, an African American woman is still less likely to make it to college than a white woman.

What is dangerous about people like Imus, and he is only one of many, is that their racist and their sexist commentary serves to celebrate and uphold the status quo, to make it okay to be indifferent to the racism and sexism that still surrounds us. That is unacceptable.

Finally, let me just say to Imus's sponsors: Let me congratulate you again, you did the right thing. But before you get too complacent, let me remind you, Procter & Gamble and American Express and all the rest, that the makeup of your corporate board rooms reflects the indifference to institutional racism and sexism in this country, and we are looking to you to do more than stop sponsoring bigots. We are looking to you to help young women, young black women like the women on the Rutgers basketball team, to overcome the hurdles that face them and to find the opportunities that are too often denied them.

So let me thank again Congresswoman KILPATRICK for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus. Also let me say thank you again, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, for your leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMARKS ON DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing condolences to all of those who were directly affected by the gun violence that has just taken the lives of so many young people with so much promise. Again, I think it is an indication of a tremendous need to better regulate the acquisition and ownership of guns in our country, and I join with all of those who call for increased regulation.

Mr. Speaker, America's radios, televisions, newspapers, and Internet sites